

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) A method for exchanging signaling information for at least one call connection, which can be switched via a packet-switched network, between subscribers of a circuit-switched network, comprising;

a digital originating exchange and a digital destination exchange which are coupled via a digital transit exchange to an access node which forms an access to the packet-switched network for the circuit-switched network, in which the signaling and useful information belonging to the call connection can be transmitted via the packet-switched network between such access node in the form of data packets,

wherein the signaling information is exchanged between the originating and destination exchanges, instead of via the packet-switched network, via a signaling network coupled to the circuit-switched network.

2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the useful information to be transmitted via the packet-switched network, and its associated signaling information to be conducted via the signaling network, are provided with a common, unambiguous identification number.

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the billing method of the circuit-switched network is applied to the call connection established via the packet-switched network by means of the signaling information conducted via the signaling network.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein a direct connection exists between the access node belonging to the originating exchange and another access node belonging to the destination exchange or between the originating exchange and the destination